

Q. Do you have a nickname?

A. Cookie. I'm named after my father. His first name was Cookfield.

Q. What is your biggest accomplishment?

A. Raising my son. He's now 31 years old, and in the Army stationed in Kuwait. I was a single parent and we had to make sacrifices along the way, but it was worth it – he is a wonderful, responsible person.

Q. What book did you just finish?

A. I recently finished "The Heart of a Woman," by Maya Angelou. It is about a woman raising her son in New York City as a single parent. The book touched my heart – my son gave it to me.

Q. What food can't you live without?

A. Any kind of seafood (oysters, crabs, etc.). Fresh seafood reminds me of the start of spring and summer... new beginnings. The water to me signifies serenity. I love picking crabs and enjoying the view. My favorite seafood restaurant is O'Leary's in Annapolis [Maryland].

Q. Who do you admire?

A. My mother who is deceased. The wisdom that she shared with me. I didn't understand it then, but I certainly understand it now!

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. I love all types of dance. I used to take classes in tap, ballet, and modern jazz. I go where the music is. I enjoy attending plays, horseback riding and poetry readings. I frequent the musical "Harlem Dance Theater". Timbuktu with Eartha Kitt is one of my favorite plays.